

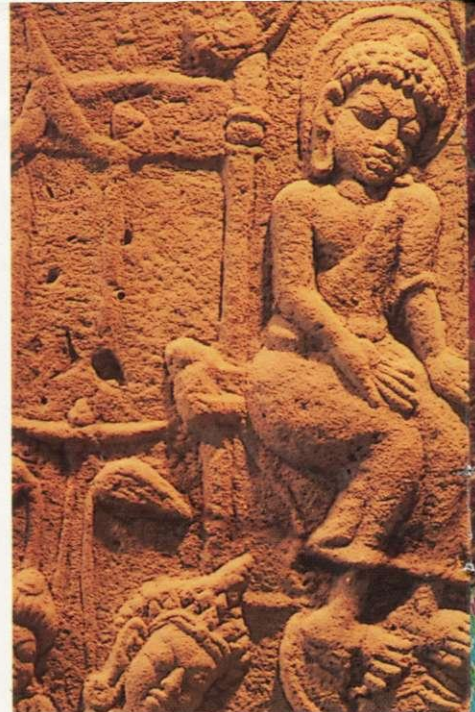
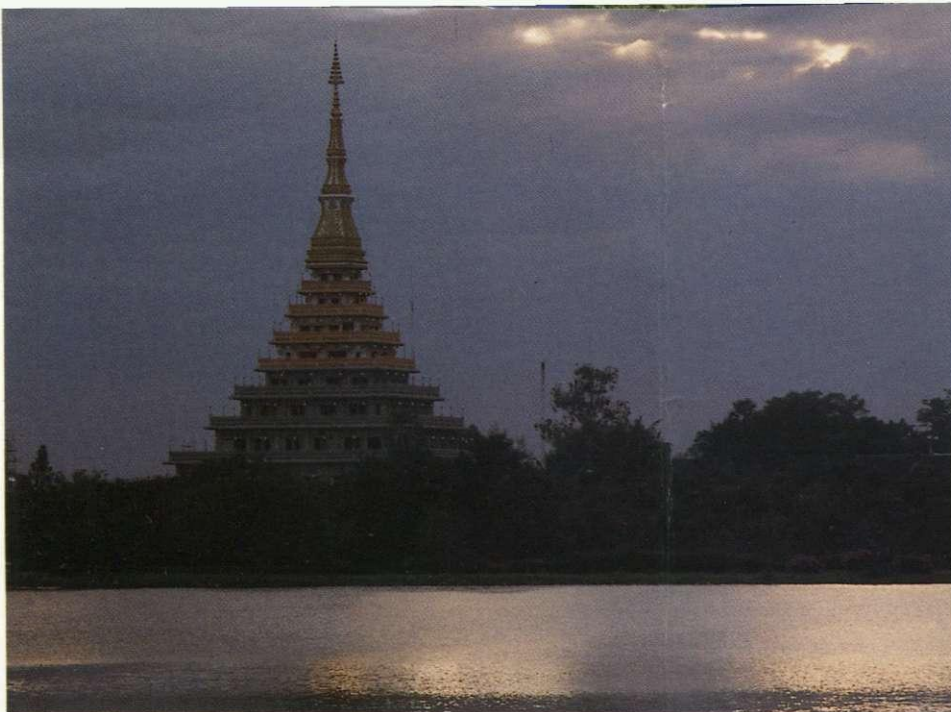


Khon Kaen

TOURIST INFORMATION

The sun sets over Bung Kaen Nakorn

EXOTIC
Thailand



Introduction

Khon Kaen lies in the geographical heart of Thailand's sprawling northeast plateau, an area known among Thais as I-San. Khon Kaen was established in 1783 and is a major regional development centre and university city. The provincial capital is 449 kilometres northeast of Bangkok. The province covers an area of 10,886 square kilometres, parts of which contain national and forest parks.

City Attractions

Bung Kaen Nakorn

This popular lakeside recreation centre in the southern part of the city is well known for its many foodstalls selling popular I-San fare, particularly *som tam* (spicy raw papaya salad) and *kai yang* (charcoal-grilled domestic chicken).

Khon Kaen National Museum

The museum contains a large collection of artifacts, particularly from the Northeast, including those discovered at major archaeological sites such as Ban Chiang, where the world's first Bronze Age civilisation was believed to have flourished more than 5,000 years ago.

Out-of-City Attractions

Phra That Kham Kaen

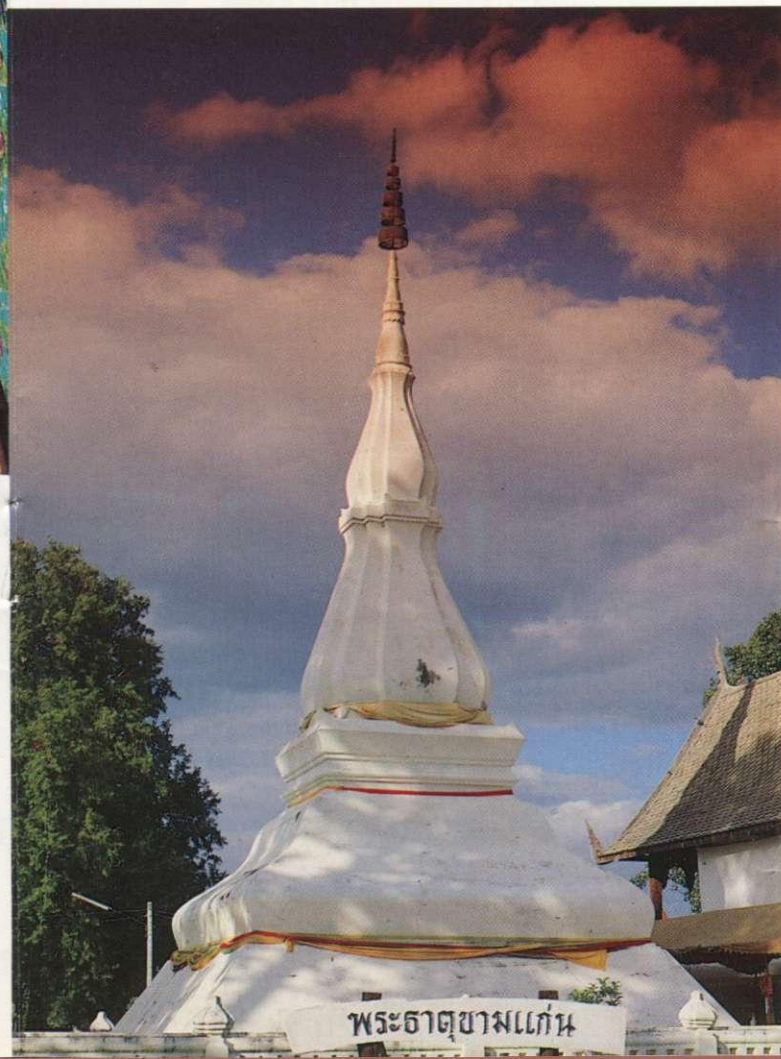
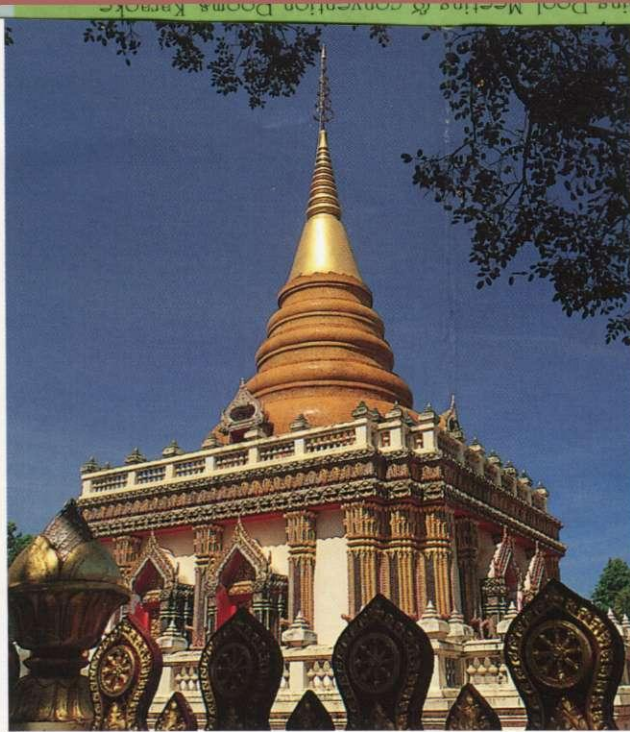
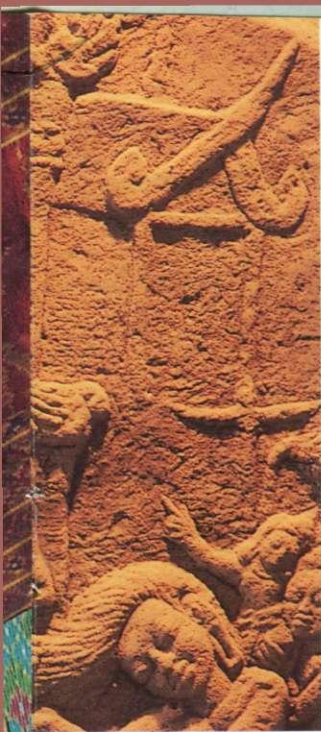
This is a 19-metre chedi at Wat Jedyaphum some 30 kilometres northeast of the provincial capital. Legend has it that two revered monks on their way to Nakhon Phanom spent the night at the site of the present temple. They saw there a dead tamarind tree. Upon their return from Nakhon Phanom, they observed the dead tree had miraculously come back to life. They advised local villagers to construct a chedi over the 'Kham Kaen'. The province derives its name from this chedi.

Chonnabot District

Located some 60 kilometres southwest of the provincial capital, this district is known throughout Thailand for the excellence of its silk, particularly the distinctive tie-and-dye *mudmee* variety. A Thai Silk Exhibition Hall in the grounds of the Khon Kaen Industries and Community Education College displays a permanent exhibition of silks featuring a great many designs.

Ubolrat Dam

Some 50 kilometres northwest of the provincial capital, this scenic dam is the largest multi-purpose dam in I-San, generating electricity for eight neighbouring provinces. A reservoir-side restaurant and opportunities for boat trips make the dam a popular weekend destination.



Phu Kao-Phu Phan Kham National Park

The 320 square-kilometre area covers part of Ubolrat district and extends into the neighbouring province of Udon Thani. Deciduous and evergreen forests offer ample trekking opportunities. The park may be reached by following the route from Khon Kaen to Ubolrat Dam to Non Sang.

Tham Pha Puang Forest Park

Some 120 kilometres from the provincial capital on the Khon Kaen-Chumpae highway, a large and interesting cave can be reached by walking up the hill from the parking area. Lush forests grace the area.

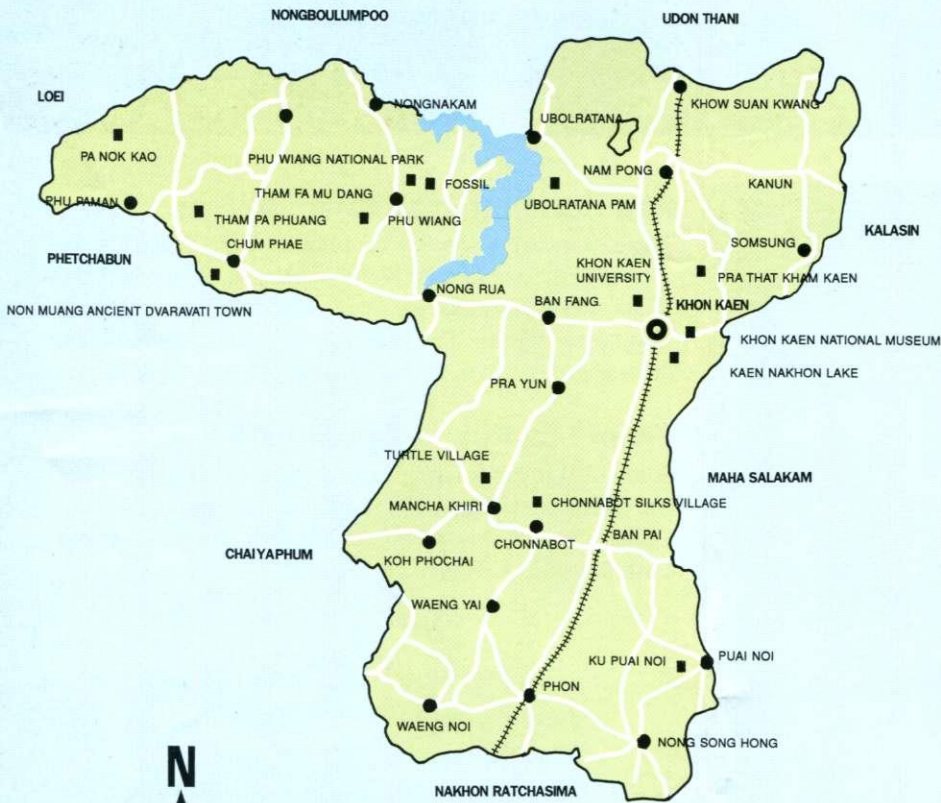
Clockwise from Top Left:
Bung Kaen Nakorn, the provincial capital's major recreation area,
a Khon Kaen National Museum exhibit
dating from the 9th century,
the rural Wat Udom Khongkha Kiri
Khet, details from the temple's lavishly
decorated doors, and
Phra That Kham Kaen, from which
the province derives its name.

Khon Kaen Tourism Maps

not drawn to scale



MALIWAN Rd.



Provincial Capital



TO NAKHONGRATCHASIMA





Pha Nok Khao

This impressive outcropping of strangely shaped rocks is 125 kilometres west of the provincial capital along Highway 201 in a mountainous area extending into Loei province. The Nam Pong River and Loei's Phu Kradung, a scenic national park, can be seen from this vantage point.

Phu Wieng Park

This area, some 60 kilometres northwest of the provincial capital, along Route 2038, contains a number of important archaeological sites with evidence of I-San's earliest inhabitants seen from prehistoric rock painting. Fossil remains of a herbivorous dinosaur may be seen at park headquarters at Hua Phu Chon Reservoir.

Non Muang

This ancient Chumpae site, 85 kilometres from the provincial capital, is believed to have been inhabited from prehistoric times until at least the 10th century AD. Human skeletons and 3,000-year-old bronze tools have been discovered in the area.

Wat Udom Khongkha Kiri Khet

This extensive hillside forest temple, 67 kilometres from the provincial capital on Highway 2149, is ideal for



meditation. The temple belonged to Luang Pu Phang, a revered I-San Buddhist ecclesiastic, and is noteworthy for a gold-roofed shrine with lavishly decorated doors, and a forest pool containing wild crocodiles belonging to the former abbot.

Koo Puay Noi

This Khmer complex, 76 kilometres from the provincial capital in Puay Noi district, is the largest Khmer complex in Khon Kaen. Three brick pagodas, a laterite palace and beautifully carved doors are of particular interest.



Clockwise from Top Left:
*The Pha Nok Khao vantage point,
 silk products from Chonnabot District,
 and the Khmer complex of Koo Puay Noi.*

Overleaf:
*Flower and Silk festival scenes from
 Khon Kaen's two major annual events*

Special Events

Dok Khoon Siang Khaen Flower Festival

April 13-15

This festival coincides with Songkran, the traditional Thai New Year, and is staged at Bung Kaen Nakhon. Featuring colourful floral processions, major festival activities include religious rites and merit-making, and I-San folk music, dancing and entertainment.

Silk Festival

November 29-December 10

Staged annually at the provincial stadium, this promotes silk weaving and silk worm culture. *Phook Sieo*, an I-San tradition promoting close friendship between people of similar ages, is also celebrated during this occasion.

How To Get There

By Bus

Airconditioned coaches and non-airconditioned buses regularly leave from Bangkok's Northeastern Bus Terminal on Phaholyothin Road throughout the day. Telephone 271-0101-5 (non-air) or 279-4484-7 (air) for further details.

By Rail

Trains leave Bangkok's Hualampong Railway Station throughout the day for Khon Kaen. Further details may be obtained by contacting Rail Travel Aids, Tel: 223-7010 or 233-7020.

By Air

Thai Airways operates daily flights to Khon Kaen. Contact Bangkok 280-0070 or 280-0080 for further details.



Tourism Authority of Thailand

Head Office

4 Ratchadamnoen Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10100, Thailand
Tel: (66 2) 281-0422 (20 lines)
Fax: (66 2) 224-6221

Accommodation

A comprehensive list of airconditioned and non-airconditioned accommodation, and restaurants, in Khon Kaen can be obtained from the local Tourism Authority of Thailand office on Prachasamosorn Road. The office is open seven days a week, throughout the year, from 8.30 AM until 4.30 PM.



Khon Kaen Office

15/5 Prachasamosorn Road,
Khon Kaen 40000
Tel: (043) 244-498-9,
Fax: (043) 244-497